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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

Kevin Zimmerman, an individual,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Trader Joe's Company DBA Trader Joe's,

Defendant.

Civil Action No:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Kevin Zimmerman, hereby brings an action for declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et. seq.*, and its implementing regulations (the, "ADA").

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. Defendant, owns and/or operates a place of Public Accommodation ("PPA") as that term is defined in 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7) located at 10345 S Eastern Ave Suite 180, Henderson, NV 89052 .

- 1 2. On the date of the visit to Defendant's PPA, Plaintiff was, and is currently, a
2 resident of the State of Nevada.
- 3 3. Plaintiff travels throughout Nevada including, in particular, the communities in
4 and surrounding Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 5 4. This action arises from a violation ADA Title III regulations. This Court has
6 original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 28 U.S.C. § 1343, and 42
7 U.S.C. § 12188.
- 8 5. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c) in that
9 this is the judicial district in which a substantial part of the acts and omissions
10 giving rise to the claims occurred.

11 STANDING

- 12 6. Plaintiff seeks both retrospective declaratory relief (that Defendant has violated
13 and continues to violate Title III of the ADA) and prospective injunctive relief all
14 as more fully stated below.
- 15 7. Plaintiff is an individual with disabilities which substantially limits major life
16 activities. Plaintiff's health and mobility is dependent on the use of a wheelchair.
17 At the time of Plaintiff's visit to Defendant's PPA, Plaintiff qualified for and
18 required reasonable accommodations to access and use the PPA.
- 19 8. Plaintiff personally visited Defendant's PPA, but was denied full and equal
20 access and full and equal enjoyment of the facilities, services, goods and
21 amenities.

1 9. Plaintiff is a customer of Defendant and visited Defendant's PPA on or about
2 February 27, 2017, to enjoy the goods and services offered at the PPA. Defendant
3 offers goods and services at its PPA without restriction to members of the public
4 who do not suffer from a physical disability.

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6 10. Plaintiff will avail himself of the goods and services offered at the PPA in the
7 future provided that Defendant modify the PPA to accommodate individuals with
8 disabilities.

9 11. Completely independent of Plaintiff's personal desire to access the PPA, Plaintiff
10 also acted as a tester for purposes of discovering, encountering, and engaging
11 discrimination against persons with disabilities at Defendant's PPA.¹ Plaintiff
12 intends to visit the PPA regularly to verify compliance or non-compliance with
13 the ADA. In the instances referenced herein, Plaintiff, in his individual capacity
14 and as a tester, visited the PPA, encountered barriers to access at the PPA,
15 engaged and tested those barriers, suffered legal harm and legal injury and will
16 continue to suffer harm and injury as a result of the illegal barriers to access and
17 the violations of Defendant set forth herein. Without judicial intervention,
18 Plaintiff will suffer a real and imminent threat of encountering Defendant's
19 accessibility barriers in the near future.
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25 ¹ *Tandy v. City of Wichita*, 380 F.3d 1277, 1285-86 (10th Cir. 2004)
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1 12. With respect to prospective relief, Plaintiff alleges that Plaintiff is suffering a
2 continuing injury or is under a real and immediate threat of being injured in the
3 future all as more fully developed below.

4 13. Plaintiff avers that Plaintiff intends to visit Defendants' PPA several times per
5 year in the near future, but is deterred from doing so while Defendant's PPA
6 violates the ADA as detailed below.²

7 14. Plaintiff further avers that Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Defendant's
8 PPA.³

9 15. Plaintiff further avers that any voluntary cessation of Defendant's noncompliance
10 with the ADA may be readily reversed by the reinstatement of the barriers to
11 individuals with disabilities. Therefore, injunctive relief should be issued
12 irrespective of Defendant's potential voluntary cessation.⁴
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23 ² *D'Lil v. Best W. Encina Lodge & Suites*, 538 F.3d 1031, 1037 (9th Cir. 2008).

24 ³ *Chapman v. Pier 1 Imports (U.S.) Inc.*, 631 F. 3d 939, 946 (9th Cir. 2011).

25 ⁴ *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Env'tl. Servs., Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 189, 120 S.Ct. 693, 145
26 L.Ed.2d 610 (2000): It is well settled that a defendant's voluntary cessation of a challenged
27 practice does not deprive a federal court of its power to determine the legality of the practice. If
28 it did, the courts would be compelled to leave the defendant free to return to his old ways.

THE ADA AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

16. On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the ADA, a comprehensive civil rights law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability.

17. The ADA broadly protects the rights of individuals with disabilities in employment, access to State and local government services, places of public accommodation, transportation, and other important areas of American life.

18. Title III regulations prohibit discrimination in the activities of places of public accommodation and requires places of public accommodation to be readily accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals with disabilities. 42 U.S.C. § 12181-89, 36 C.F.R. part 1191.

19. On July 26, 1991, the Department of Justice (“DOJ”) issued rules implementing Title III of the ADA, which are codified at 28 CFR Part 36.

20. Appendix A of the 1991 Title III regulations (republished as appendices B and D to 36 C.F.R. part 1191, and 28 C.F.R. part 36) contains the ADA standards for Accessible Design (1991 Standards), which were based upon the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (1991 ADAAG) published by the Access Board on the same date.

21. In 1994, the Access Board began the process of updating the 1991 ADAAG by establishing a committee composed of members of the design and construction industries, the building code community, and State and local governmental entities, as well as individuals with disabilities.

1 22. In 1999, based largely on the report and recommendations of the advisory
2 committee, the Access Board issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to update
3 and revise its ADA and ABA Accessibility Guidelines.

4 23. The Access Board issued final publication of revisions to the 1991 ADAAG on
5 July 23, 2004 (“2004 ADAAG”).

6 24. On September 30, 2004, the DOJ issued an advanced notice of proposed
7 rulemaking to begin the process of adopting the 2004 ADAAG.

8 25. On June 17, 2008, the DOJ published a notice of proposed rulemaking covering
9 Title III of the ADA.

10 26. The long-contemplated revisions to the 1991 ADAAG culminated with the DOJ’s
11 issuance of The 2010 Standards for Accessible Design (“2010 Standards”). The
12 DOJ published the Final Rule detailing the 2010 Standards on September 15,
13 2010. The 2010 Standards consist of the 2004 ADAAG and the requirements
14 contained in appendices B and D to 36 C.F.R. part 1191, and subpart D of 28
15 C.F.R. part 36.

16 27. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a) provides that “No individual shall be discriminated against
17 on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services,
18 facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public
19 accommodation by any person who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a
20 place of public accommodation.”

21 28. The ADA also provides a private right of action for preventative relief, including
22 an application for a permanent or temporary injunction or restraining order for
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1 “any person who is being subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability in
2 violation of Title III.” 28 C.F.R. § 36.501.

3 29. The duty of compliance with the ADA is not delegable.

4 FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

5 30. On or about February 27, 2017, Plaintiff visited Defendant’s PPA.

6 31. Plaintiff was prevented from the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services,
7 facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of Defendant’s PPA due to
8 Defendant’s violation of the ADA and its accompanying Accessibility
9 Guidelines and is discriminating against Plaintiff as a result of specific
10 violations including but not limited to the following:
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12 a. Failure to provide an unobstructed high forward reach to the soap dispenser
13 no greater than 48 inches (1220 mm) above the ground as required by 36 CFR
14 § 1191 App. D Guideline 308.2 et seq.;

15 b. Failure to provide an unobstructed high forward reach to the towel
16 dispenser no greater than 48 inches (1220 mm) above the ground as required
17 by 36 CFR § 1191 App. D Guideline 308.2 et seq.;

18 c. Failure to provide the clear width of walking surfaces in aisles and
19 pathways no less than 36 inches (915 mm) as required by 36 CFR § 1191
20 App. D Guideline 403.5.1;
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s See also 36 C.F.R. § Pt. 1191, App. A and D.
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1 d. Failure to provide signs containing the designation "van accessible" that
2 identify van parking spaces as required by 36 CFR § 1191 App. D Guideline
3 502.6;

4 e. Failure to provide toilet flush controls on the open side of the water closet
5 as required by 36 CFR § 1191 App. D Guideline 604.6.
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7 32. Having been deterred from equal enjoyment of Defendant's PPA, Plaintiff has
8 not conducted a complete review of Defendant's PPA; however, Plaintiff shall
9 seek to amend the Complaint to allege additional ADA violations upon the
10 completion of discovery and disclosure process. Since most barriers involve
11 measurement of inches or degrees, to identify all architectural barriers requires a
12 person to have unfettered access to a property with tools such as a tape measure,
13 inclinometer, and note pad. Plaintiff therefore requires an on-site inspection
14 including the entry on Defendant's PPA to gather additional evidence pursuant to
15 Rule 34 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to provide a comprehensive list
16 of all barriers which existed on or before the date of this Complaint.
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18 33. Defendant has discriminated against Plaintiff and others in that it has failed to
19 make its PPA fully accessible to, and independently usable by, individuals who
20 are disabled in violation of the ADA.
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22 34. Defendant has discriminated against Plaintiff in that it has failed to remove
23 architectural barriers to make its PPA fully accessible to, and independently
24 usable by individuals who are disabled.
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1 35. Defendant's conduct is ongoing. Plaintiff invokes the statutory right to
2 declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as costs, expenses and attorneys' fees.
3 28 U.S.C. § 2201, 2202, 28 C.F.R. 36.501.
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5 COUNT ONE: VIOLATION OF TITLE III OF ADA

6 36. Plaintiff adopts and re-alleges the allegations stated in the preceding paragraphs
7 as fully stated herein.

8 37. 42 U.S.C. § 12182(a) prohibits discrimination "on the basis of disability in the
9 full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages,
10 or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any person who
11 owns, leases (or lease to); or operates a place of public accommodation."
12

13 38. 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a) provides for a private cause of action against such
14 discrimination.

15 39. The mobility impairment at issue constitutes a disability under 42 U.S.C. §
16 12102.

17 40. Plaintiff was prevented from the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services,
18 facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of Defendant's PPA due to
19 Defendant's violation of the ADA and Defendant's architectural barriers at its
20 PPA constitute discrimination against Plaintiff.
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22 41. Removal of the Defendant's architectural barriers is readily achievable, or
23 Defendant may make their facilities available through alternative methods that
24 are readily achievable.
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1 42. Defendant was required to make the PPA accessible to persons with disabilities.

2 As of the dates discussed herein, Defendant has failed to comply with the
3 mandates of the ADA.

4 43. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188, this Court is vested with the authority to grant
5 Plaintiff's request for injunctive relief including an order to alter the PPA to
6 make it readily accessible to, and useable by, individuals with disabilities to the
7 extent required by the ADA, and closing the PPA until the requisite
8 modifications are completed.
9

10 RELIEF

11 44. With respect to prospective relief, Plaintiff alleges that Plaintiff is suffering a
12 continuing injury or is under a real and immediate threat of being injured in the
13 future all as more fully developed below.

14 45. Plaintiff avers that Plaintiff intends to visit Defendants' PPA several times per
15 year in the near future, but is deterred from doing so while Defendant's PPA
16 violates the ADA as detailed above.
17

18 46. Plaintiff further avers that Plaintiff is deterred from visiting the Defendant's PPA.

19 47. Plaintiff further avers that any voluntary cessation of Defendant's noncompliance
20 with the ADA may be readily reversed by the reinstatement of the barriers to
21 individuals with disabilities. Therefore, injunctive relief should be issued
22 irrespective of Defendant's potential voluntary cessation.
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25 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests judgment against Defendant as follows:
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- 1 A. A declaration that Plaintiff has a federally protected right to the full and
2 equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages,
3 or accommodations of Defendant's PPA, whether alleged in this
4 Complaint or subsequently discovered; and
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6 B. A declaration that at the commencement of this action Defendant was in
7 violation of the specific requirements of the ADA described above; and
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9 C. Irrespective of Defendant's "voluntary cessation," if applicable, a
10 preliminary and permanent injunction requiring Defendant to remove all
11 barriers so that Plaintiff shall have the full and equal enjoyment of the
12 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of
13 Defendant's PPA; and
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15 D. An Order requiring Defendant to alter its PPA that is the subject of this
16 Complaint to make the PPA accessible to and usable by individuals with
17 disabilities to the full extent required by the ADA; and
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19 E. An award of attorneys' fees, including litigation expenses, and costs,
20 pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205, 28 CFR § 36.505, and other principles of
21 law and equity and in compliance with the "prevailing party" and
22 "material alteration" of the parties' relationship doctrines.

23 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

24 Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff hereby
25 demands a jury trial on issues triable by a jury.
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2 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this April 27, 2017.
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